

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, April 17, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 17, 1845.

*My Dear General*, . . . I am gratified to find that under the circumstances you advise me to do what I have done. The President was absolutely bent on doing away with the Globe. I saw that I could not remain connected with the press without coming into collision with the official organ and making a breach between those who supported the Globe and the Executive. Under this state of the case, I felt it my duty to give way and not have the sin of dividing the party laid at my door. I shall do all that I can to prevent any ill consequences from this measure of Mr. Polk, but I am somewhat apprehensive that Mr. Ritchie will have difficulty in pleasing all the cliques and the honest democracy to boot. I pleaded very hard with the President to allow me to serve him as I had served you and Van Buren but he would not yield to my reasoning. I declare to you, that, if I know my heart, my motive in this, was the public good, no mercenary interest of any one. Both Mr. Rives and myself foresaw a loss of a part of our capital in a few years war for the administration. We did not doubt that the Calhoun men and a few others of the disaffected could defeat us for the congressional printing and the Administration has now none to give, as it is let out to the lowest bidder. Yet as we had made our means by the support of the Democracy, we were willing to devote them to the cause, and I urged Mr. Polk to permit us to hold our old position to make our efforts effectual. But he would not accept my servitude nor the strength which I had gathered under your wing and Mr. Van Buren's.

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Ought I not to rejoice at my deliverance after fifteen years of care and labor? As far as I am personally concerned, I assure you no man ever more heartily congratulated himself. My wife, my sons Montgomery and James who are with me are made happy by my emancipation from the shop. And if all goes well for the party and the enemy of popular rights gain nothing by the new policy which the President chose to enter upon, I shall never regret the course he has adopted in reference to myself. And let what will come I shall have at least a clear conscience. In the most candid manner I warned him of the hazard he incurred in throwing off the strength of the leading men who supported you, to catch at the uncertain support of the disaffected, but he has taken the advice of other counsellors. (Buchanan Walker and Mason are I think the principal ones) and now all I can do is to wish him well and aid him in a private station. My last public act to promote his objects—the relinquishment of my establishment—I am happy you approve as all that was left me to do.

I suppose Cameron has had his finger in the business of establishing a new press in contradistinction to the Globe. Before Tyler went out a Treasury deposit of \$50,000 was made in his (Middleton) Bank and then Cameron made a conditional purchase of the Madisonian. Eight thousand dollars has just been put into the hands of Dow who has bought out John Jones of the Madisonian and in the end it will be swallowed up. Cameron is here now and although I know nothing of his having any thing to do in connection with the purchasers of the Globe, it is not impossible that he may have some dominant interest inasmuch as he has long had a hankering to supplant it. He and Stambaugh were candidates and underbid the Globe in all of its late contests in Congress for the printing. If he has had any part in the late arrangement, as your mention of him seems to intimate, I should be glad to know it, merely for the satisfaction of my mind. He is a very intimate friend of Mr. Buchannan.

The interest you have taken in regard to the late movements made on me, renders my sense of kindness and friendship more profound than ever. The solicitude which *you* and

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*Van Buren, Wright, Benton, Allen* and others have manifested makes me proud. And as you have all concurred in the rectitude of my late conduct I am happy. May God spare you yet a little while to us is the prayer of yo. mo. af. friend,